GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS. Secbt. II-16—55,006—3-9-53.

Agri (C&P) (1954) Department.

Endorsement
D.O.
Memorandum
Lodged

Lodged No. 7512/54

Dated 11. 3 1954.

Passed
Superintendent
11/3/54

FURTHER PAPERS.

Department.	Number.	Series.	Date.
Community projects – South Kanara – Mangalore criticism in 'Jyothi' dated 21-1-1954 – Report submitted			

7512

2,002—30-5-52.

CONFIDENTIAL.

TRANSLATORS' DEPARTMENT.

Name and language of the journal Jyoti (Kannada fortnightly of Mangalore) Issue 20 Dated 21- 1-1954.

Subject. COMMUNITY PROJECT IN SOUTH KANARA.

Endorsement No. 38/54, dated 1- 2- 1954.

Submitted to the Secretary to Government, Agriculture (Community Projects), Department, Madras, for favour of information.

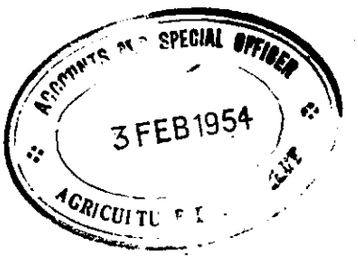
M. Kesavan 1.2.54.

Kannada *Translator to Government.*

1.2.54

Very much wanted water has flown under the Ullal Bridge after the inception of the community project in South Kanara. Dare Devil had warned the people not to be dupes of hope by too much pinning their faith on such schemes. It was said that everything would be done on war footing and accomplished in a twinkling of the eye. All looked forward for Mana to drop from the Heavens. But it only rained and with all the rains, the crops are withering. So also the enthusiasm of the people towards the projects. The war footing has been directed towards the people. The only war we see is the war between the departments *Interse* and the people and the officials. The Officials instead of giving a true and correct picture of the entire scheme in their over enthusiasm gave a very bright picture, not on canvas but on the dark blue sky. Now the sky itself is turning red and the brigh pticture is paleing for want of a painter. The Officials who promised much are scratching their heads and try to find fault with people when they demand the promise. All sorts of lame excuses are poured, showered and even thrown at the people who beg from door to door, lane to lane, road to road and try to do some good. They do these in a spirit of service by "wasting" their hard earned money much to the detriment of their self interest. But the Officials who spin in Jeeps at Govt. cost and with fat salaries and extra special allowances. These Officials, some of them treat the public workers with scant respect and they think these people are a set of unwanted people who have come to make hay. The treatment meted out by these Officials are worse than that meted out to ordinary "two penny" contractors. These men give one instruction today, revise it the next day, a third order for the fourth day. They are not sure of themselves and thus waste the hard earned public money.

The non-officials are made to dance attendance at the Project Office for days together, trying to get a glimpse of these men in authority. Even Dhruva got the Lord much easier than one could find these officials in their office. No



Office time. We are [illegible] they are supposed to [illegible]. The people have to spend day at Mangalore to get a Dharshan. Is it not better that a fixed day is allotted for Head Office or atleast a fixed time for interviews? Then again the non-officials are informed that so and so will be visiting the spot for laying curb or foundation or cementing. Everything will be kept in readiness but the official would be absconding. No sign of him at all. Unless the Honour comes no work could be taken up. The workers, the materials, the non-officials will have to be waiting at the site but no sight of the official. All ends in a waste. The entire days wages, energy men and material Then the Official makes his appearance on a off day and try to insult the non-officials. He expects them to run after him begging him to go to the site and instruct them to proceed with the work. With greatest of difficulties he will come and give some haphazard instructions which when carried out is again directed to be dismantled and rebuilt. This happens not once but twice, thrice. Thus the public money is wasted by these "Supermen" who think that laymen are worse than coolies.

But some say a bit of greasing helps a lot and everything works on smoothly; should this happen in Community project work also?

After every hurdle is crossed then comes the final hurdle; the billing, this is done at their sweet convenience; the promises of prompt and advance payment is forgotten. Unless you dance attendance at the door of the official, no check measurment, no billing; even after this the billing is done in a slip shod method. No rules, no calculations but his sweet will This takes a few months Then the payment of the bill. For this unless the party comes to Mangalore atleast ten times, he would no get it. Nine times he will get refusals and abuses. When the time for payment comes the bill amount would have been already spent by him for his visits to Mangalore, the Project office, the houses of the officials and when it is actually cashed he will have to borrow for going back home after paying the debts he had incurred for his sojourns to Mangalore to get his bill passed. This is how the Community project is working in South Kanara. Is it not better we scrap this once for all and save our energy atleast? What say you Dey? It is learnt that Sri Dey is also disgusted and wants to get out of it. Will anybody look into it and set matters right. Will the Officials behave better towards the people. Will arrangement be made to bill immediately and the bills paid on the spot and not make the party run to Mangalore and waste money? The Officials when they spin could deliver the cheques on the spot, over and above all will these officials treat the workers better who actually do honorary work and give respect wherever it is due. These paid Officials will have to realise their position in Community Project Schemes much better than others; let them not think and treat these selflessmen as P. W. D. Contractors. There they earn in tons and share. Here no earning and hence no question of sharing at all.

DARE-DEVIL.

1.2.54.

Enot no 7512 Agri CP III /54-1 dt. 12-2-54

Reference to the P. Eo Mangalore for urgent remarks.

Please see D 14/2/54

3 — — —

10682

4/3/54

L.Dis.872/54. Project Executive Office, S.K. Mangalore, dt:- 27th February, 1954.

4 - MAR 1954

From

Sri H. Narasimha,
Project Executive Officer,
M A N G A L O R E.

To

The Director of Community Projects,
Agriculture (C.P.) Department,
Fort St.George,
M A D R A S - 9.

Sir,

Sub:- Community Projects - South Kanara - Mangalore - Criticism in 'Jyothi' dated 21-1-1954 - Report - Submitted.

P 4 above

Ref:- Endorsement No. 7512 Agriculture (C.P.III)/54-1 dated 12-2-1954.

*****

The publication by 'Dare-Devil' in the Jyoti journal dated 21-1-1954 regarding Community Project in South Kanara is, to say the least, frivolous. The author 'Dare-Devil' knows no virtue and the journal has earned a notoriety in the District for vicious propaganda against Government and Government officials. No one attaches any weight to criticisms by this 'Dare-Devil' journal and every one takes it as unworthy of notice. There is absolutely no truth in what is stated in the article under reference. The Editor Sri B.S.Bhasker Rai is a member of the Project Executive Council. He seldom talks at the monthly meetings where the progress of work in each month is placed before the members but takes delight in vilifying the Community Project in his journal, for reasons best known to himself. There are other non-official members like Sri K.Sadananda Hegde M.P. Sri S.Narasapaya, M.L.C., Sri B.Manjaya Hegde, Ex-President, District Board and Sri K.P.Mukunda Prabhu, Karkal. They are whole-heartedly cooperating with the Community Project activities, giving very useful suggestions. There was of course, a general feeling that the progress of work was rather slow. But none of them has expressed any dissatisfaction with the local officials at any time. Their complaint was against the usual procedural delay in getting sanctions for individual works. But, even here, they have come to realise the difficulties of the administration and the recent relaxation of certain rules and procedure has slowly changed their opinion. The tempo of the Community Project activities at present is very high and there is universal satisfaction about the progress made. No where is any whisper of any sort of complaint against any of the officials of the Community Project is heard. On the other hand, some of the members sympathise with the officials for the sincere hard and strenuous work they are doing and at every meeting, they plead for more facilities being given to the local officials such as jeeps, petrol, additional staff, etc.,

2. Sri Bhasker Rai, 'Dare-Devil' of the Jyoti Journal has interested himself in two items of Community Project works in the Project area viz. (1) the additional accommodation to the Higher Elementary School at Mudushedde and (2) the Hospital building under construction at Bajpe. The first item is already completed and the second item is nearing completion. At one stage, there arose some difference between the Engineering staff and

p.t.o.

the person (beneficiary) in charge of the Hospital building construction. Materials not approved by the Engineering staff were tried to be used for the building and part-bills were expected to be prepared in respect of incomplete items of work. The Engineering staff did not yield to such things and this annoyed the beneficiary. He wanted Rs. 4000/- to be paid under a part bill, while, on checkmeasuring the work done, only about Rs. 800/- could be paid. The individual complained to Sri Bhasker Rai who, without making any enquiry, entertained a strong prejudice against the Project staff as a whole and this accounts for his frivolous allegations in his journal. I called a meeting of all the members of the Building Committee and explained the correct position to them. They were fully satisfied with the action of the Project staff and in fact, they found fault with the beneficiary and Sri Bhasker Rai openly at the meeting for their improper attitude and conduct.

3. There are now about 100 works on hand all over the Project area and they are all in progress without a whisper of any complaint. The allegations that "non-officials are made to dance attendance at the Project Office" that "people have to spend days at Mangalore to get Darshan" are absolutely false.

4. In the beginning, the beneficiaries used to come to office, even before the Assistant Engineer's checkmeasurement reports were received. Hence they had to go back once or twice without the bills. But now, they are aware of the procedure and they come in time and take the bills. It is understood that the beneficiary in charge of the Bajpe Hospital building construction, who owns a car came to the office (in my absence) when he had come over to Mangalore on his own other work and found that the part bill was not ready for delivery. He seems to have complained of this to Sri Bhasker Rai who has chosen to magnify this single instance and generalise it in his journal, giving it too much of an artificial colour.

5. An enquiry in the district will show that there is perfect satisfaction with the Project officials working in the District and that the solitary voice of one cantakerous individual through his 'devilish' journal is not at all taken notice of seriously by the public in general.

H Narasimha
1.3.64

Project Executive Officer,
MANGALORE.

Agrl (CPR) Deptt

H.S.b above

Submitted for perusal. In the circumstances stated by the P.E.O. in his letter, no action is called for on H.S.b above. The papers may be lodged.

6/3/64

AGRICULTURE (C.P.III) DEPTT.

Sub: Community Projects - South Kanara, Mangalore - Progress of work - Criticism in Jyothi, Kannada fortnightly of Mangalore.

***

The Press cuttings from the Kannada Journal 'Jyothi' dated 21-1-54 on pp.1-3 c.f. and ~~its~~ the remarks of the P.E.O. Mangalore thereon on pp.5-6 C.F. may be perused. In the circumstances reported by the Project Executive Officer, Mangalore, no further action is called for in this file. The papers may be lodged.

2. D.C.P. may also see.

8/3/54 8/3/54

I too asked some non-officials on 22.2.54, when I was at Mangalore and Karkal. The one gentleman Sri Mukunda Prabhu, who take a good deal of interest in the working of the C.P. scheme is very pleased with the performance in the South Kanara area.

The article is undoubtedly frivolous and may be lodged in view of the report of the P.E.O

P.S.L. :/

10.3.54

11/3